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God's just Judgment,

AGAINST

Jealous Perſons:

ALSO

The ſubſtance of a Sermon that was preach'd by the Rev. Mr. *Ruſſel*-

Licenſed and Entr'd according to Orderſ:

God's juſt Judgment against Jealous Perſons, &c.

IN the Pariſh of *Milverton*, near *Taunton* in *Somerſetſhire*, lived one Mr. *William Watts*, a Gentleman of very good Eſtate, and about twenty eight Years of Age; he married a very beautiful young Woman in that Neighbourhood, by whom he had three Children and lived very lovingly together for ſeveral Years, till the Devil raiſed ſuch a ſpirit of Jealouſy in him that he could not reſt Day nor Night: For the Love that he formerly bore to her turned into Hatred and Malice; and oftentimes he would beat and abuſe her in a very inhuman manner, ſaying the Children ſhe bore to him, were all of them Baſtards, and none of his; and would often threaten to Murder her and her Baſtards, to the great Grief of the poor tender Mother, who would often ſtrive to pacify him, by affirming, that ſhe was as inocent as the Child unborn, but all was to no purpoſe.

One Morning as he was walking out in the Fields ſtudying how he might accompliſh his wicked deſign to Murder them; the Devil appeared to him in the ſhape of a Nobleman, and ſaluted him, in a very Complaiſant manner, and after ſome little diſcourſe, looking very earneſtly on him he ſaid "Sir, I preceive you are under ſome Trouble, and therefore pray tell me what it is, and I will ſoon put you in a way to get rid of it; you think that your Wife is a Whore, and your Children are all Baſtards, which I know to be true, for mine was the very ſame; but I ſoon got rid of that trouble for I went home and Murdered them all; and I had

a good Eſtate beyond the Seas, and a Ship of my own, lying ready to Sail, I went on board and got off, where I have liv'd ever ſince very happy. Now if you'd be rul'd by me, go home, and your Wife is gone abroad, ſend your Servant-Maid to call her Miſtreſs, and then kill her three Baſtards, and the Whore your Wife when ſhe comes home; and then come again to this Place to me: Let nothing diſmay you, for I will take you aboard of my Ship where you ſhall live happy, and enjoy all the Pleaſures this Life can afford.

Then ſhewing two large Bags, one of Silver, and the other of Gold this wicked Wretch took the Devil's Advice, and went home with a heart full of moſt barbarous and bloody Cruelty, where finding none but his Servant Maid, as the Devil had told him, ſent her to call her Miſtreſs: Then taking the Bloody Knife in his Hand, goes up Stairs, where he found the three Innocent Children lying faſt aſleep in each others Arms; and taking the youngeſt, being a Boy, by the Hair of the Head cut his Throat from Ear to Ear, and then laid him on the Floor; then taking the youngeſt Girl, he cut her Throat in the ſame manner, while the Eldeſt cry'd out in a moſt tender manner, 'Oh my dear Father! why do you kill my dear Brother and Siſter.' He told her ſhe ſhould die in the ſame manner: With that ſhe fell upon her Knees, and begged of him for God's ſake, that he would give her time to ſay her Prayers: To which he granted

The Child's PRAYER.

O Eternal God, and moſt merciful Father, take Pity on me thy Child, and ſave me from the Hands of my cruel Father, who hath already

led my dear Brother and Sister; and preserve my dear Mother out of his wicked Hands, and send thy Angel to hold his Bloody Hand; that he proceed no further in his Barbarous Cruelty.

And while she was praying, there was heard a mighty Voice, crying out, saying, hold thy hand, thou bloody minded Wretch, the Lord hath heard the Prayer of thy innocent Child, whom thou seekest to destroy; thou hast slain already two innocent Babes whose Blood cryeth for Vengeance against thee, and thou shall be tormented in everlasting Flames, for the Devil who hath deceived thee, can do thee no Service at all.

In the mean time the poor unfortunate Wife came in, and hearing a Noise ran up stairs, and seeing her two Babes lay bleeding on the Floor, she began to make an outcry; he running to her, with a long sharp-pointed Knife, stabb'd her three times in the Body, and then cut her Throat from Ear to Ear.

By this time the Neighbours hearing her cry out, came running in, and he was standing in the midst of the Room, and not having power to move; they immediately seiz'd on him, and he was sent to *Taunton* Goal and tried and found Guilty at the last Assizes, and deservedly Executed for the same.

His CONFESSION.

"I was born in the County of Somerset, in the Parish of Milverton, near Tantondean, of very honest Parents; whose Care was to bring me up in the Fear and service of God, having no other child besides me; they dying left me a very good

good Eſtate, and I married a very Beautiful young Woman in the Nighbourhood, tho much inferior To me in Birth and Fortune; by her I had three ſmall Children, but her Beauty proved my Ruin and brought me thro' my own Jealouſy at leaſt to ſtifle in its firſt approaches and not ſuffer themſelves to be miſled by the Devil, who made me many a great promiſe, telling me to kill my Wife and Children, and perſwading me that ſhe was Guilty of defiling my Bed and others henious Offences againſt me.' After deſiring the Prayers of all good Chriſtians, and for warning others by his Example he was turned off.

The Subſtance of a Sermon Preached upon that Occaſion, by the Rev. Mr RUSSEL,

JAMES i. 13. 14. 15. *Let no Man ſay, when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted of Evil, neithtr tempted he any Man. But every Man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own Luſt and enticed. Then when Luſt hath conceived, it bringeth forth Sin, and Sin, when it is finiſhed, bringeth forth Death.*

MY Beloved the words of this Text ought to warn us to ſpeedy Repentance, that ſo we may be prepared for our latter end, by amending our lives and living Soberly, Righteouſly and Godly in this preſent life that we may be made partakers of Eternal happineſs in the life to come; and indeed if men were ſo wiſe as to conſider their latter

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Souls For, beloved the Day cometh that ſhall
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l burn them up ſaith the LORD of HOSTS,
it ſhall leave them neither Root no Branch,
Mal. 4. 1.

Therefore let me deſire you as you tender your
ery happineſs not to defer your Repentance till
d Age, for we ſee by Experience that not one in
Thouſand that takes that courſe doth ever attain
unto it; the rich Man in the Goſpel promiſed him-
ſelf many years to live in eaſe, mirth and fullneſs,
when he had not one Night longer to live: ſo
many Perſons falſly promiſe themſelves the age of
many Years, when the thread of their Lives is
drawn to an end, the Prophet Jeremiah aſcribes the
Cauſe of the Jews ſins and Calamities to this, that
they remembered not their latter End. And as
touching this unhappy Gentleman, whom we fear
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this Sin, is Noah, who a little before had see
World, except Eight Persons destroyed by the
and add, what was the Consequence? Why h
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Therefore let me earneſtly entreat you to think on your latter End, and to prepare your ſelves for eternal happineſs; pray to God to give you grace and keep you from all temptations.

The Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and the Love of God, be with you all evermore. Amen.

We whoſe Names are hereunto ſet, do certify this relation to be true, and deſire that it may be publiſh'd as a timely warning to all people.

Sir *Henry Betterton*, Sir *John Farrington* *Humphery Broom*, *Samuel Fiſher*, *R. Aſhford*, *James Jefferies*, and *John Bentley*, Eſqrs;

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